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*Agency of Natural Resources*

May 21, 2008

Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Regional Office  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

Dear Mr. Moriarty:

I am writing you with regard to the Sheffield Wind Project, proposed by Signal Wind Energy (formerly known as UPC Wind, LLC), to be located in Sheffield, Vermont. The Agency of Natural Resources has a long history reviewing this project. I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with the Agency's perspective on the matter.

The Agency's primary concerns relate to impacts on wildlife and their associated habitat. Birds and bats, as well as larger mammals, such as deer, bear and moose are species of concern as they have been with other wind projects. Issues involving birds and bats are especially complex. Knowledge concerning regional populations, migratory patterns, and the use of the rotor-swept area and rotor-caused mortality of those species continues to evolve. The Agency also reviews impacts to wetlands and water quality associated with the construction and the operation of wind facilities. Because construction of such projects often takes place in high elevation and Class A and B watersheds, they receive careful scrutiny. In contrast, impacts involving projects to water quality are better known, understood, and have been the subject of permitting for decades.

As you may be aware, the Agency began reviewing the proposed Sheffield project in the context of the Vermont Public Service Board proceeding. Agency staff have worked with the Petitioner since 2005 to address concerns I have described above.

Over many months, studies were undertaken, information was exchanged between parties, and suggestions were made by the Agency and others to minimize impacts. The project was extensively redesigned to minimize roads, avoid wetland impacts (specifically a large beaver-influenced wetland near the project area), avoid impact to areas of bear-scarred beech. Sundry other avoidance and minimization were undertaken. In addition, the Agency reached a stipulation with the



petitioners wherein they agreed to: fund 600 mortality searches for birds; curtail operation of the project 180 nights a year, during weather conditions thought amenable to nocturnal migration of bats, and preserve an adjoining 2700+ acre parcel suitable for black bear habitat. This mitigation package was deemed "extraordinary" by the wildlife biologists testifying for the Agency. Other measures taken are detailed in the stipulation appended to this letter.

The Board held technical hearings on this matter in the winter of 2007. Ultimately, the Board accepted the stipulation as well as the Agency's recommendation that the Petitioner be subject to all the permitting requirements of the State of Vermont, including stormwater management.

It was with some surprise that I read the letter of March 21, 2008 sent to the Water Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Conservation from Vernon C. Lang, and copied to a number of parties (the letter is also appended). Mr. Lang poses several pointed questions, and challenges a number of permitting decisions made by the VTDEC, despite the fact that the standards used and applied in this case are widely viewed as state-of-the-art with regard to erosion prevention and sediment control. I am concerned that these issues was not broached as matter between our agencies.

In this vein, I would like to invite you to meet with myself and Agency staff to discuss this matter at greater length. This would provide an opportunity to share our extensive knowledge of the project and our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George B. Crombie".

George B. Crombie  
Secretary

cc: Wayne Laroche, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Laura Pelosi, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation  
David Englander, General Counsel, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Pete LaFlamme, Director DEC Water Quality Division

Enclosures